

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MC-02 DODE-00 EB-07 NRC-05 NSAE-00

TRSE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 /030 R

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APPROVED BY ARA/CEN:LOWELL C. KILDAY  
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----- 026789

R 241927Z DEC 75  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 302798

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, ES, US

SUBJECT: MUNITIONS CONTROL LICENSE APPLICATIONS

REF: SAN SALVADOR 3601

1. DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED SEVERAL MUNITIONS CONTROL  
LICENSE APPLICATIONS FOR SMALL QUANTITIES OF ARMS FOR  
EL SALVADOR RECENTLY WHICH RAISE QUESTIONS BECAUSE THEY  
BYPASS USUAL PRACTICES. THE CASES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. TAMIAMI GUN DISTRIBUTORS, R/M EQUIPMENT INCORPORATED  
OF MIAMI, FLORIDA HAS APPLIED FOR MC LICENSE (07140) FOR  
FOUR MAC-10 9 MM SUB-MACHINE GUNS ADAPTED SO THAT A  
SUPPRESSOR MAY NOT BE INSTALLED. THE CONSIGNEE IS LISTED  
AS COLONEL ANIBAL VELARDEFIGUEROA SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT.  
THE STATED PURPOSE FOR IMPORTING THE WEAPONS IS TO PROVIDE  
PERSONAL PROTECTION FOR THE PRESIDENT OF EL SALVADOR.  
ATTACHED TO THE APPLICATION IS A LETTER FROM COLONEL  
VELARDE REQUESTING THAT THE ARMS BE DELIVERED PERSONALLY  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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IN MIAMI TO JOAQUIN RODEZNO H. A SALVADORAN DIPLOMAT. WE  
WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY VERIFYING THAT PRESIDENTIAL  
SECURITY FORCE IS END USER. ALSO, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO  
HAVE AN EXPLANATION AS TO WHY GOES IS USING THIS METHOD

OF PROCUREMENT.

B. WILLIAM R. AMTHOR OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA HAS SUBMITTED A MC LICENSE APPLICATION (08552) FOR FOUR 22 CAL REMINGTON MODEL 582 RIFLES, 16 REUGER GS-84 38 CAL REVOLVERS, 3 COLT D-3425 38 CAL REVOLVERS, 20 BOXES OF 230 GR 45 CAL BULLETS, 2 BOXES 185 GR 45 CAL BULLETS, 5 BOXES 125 GR 38 CAL BULLETS AND 50 BOXES 158 GR 38 CAL BULLETS FOR CONSIGNMENT TO DAGLIO AND COMPANY, SAN SALVADOR. THE STATED PURPOSE FOR ACQUIRING ITEMS IS FOR PROTECTING FIRM'S INTERESTS AND EMPLOYEES. ATTACHED TO APPLICATION IS A LETTER FROM COLONEL FEDERICO CASTILLO YANES, SUB-SECRETARY OF DEFENSE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION BY DAGLIO AND COMPANY OF 30 SMITH AND WESSON 12 CAL SHOTGUNS AND 20 COLT 38 CAL REVOLVERS. WE UNDERSTAND APPLICANT INTENDS TO DELIVER ITEMS DIRECTLY TO AGENT OF CONSIGNEE IN SAN FRANCISCO. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY ASSESSMENT OF WHETHER ARMS ARE APPROPRIATE TO FIRM'S SECURITY NEEDS, CLARIFICATION OF DISCREPANCY BETWEEN LETTER FROM MOD AND ITEMS ORDERED AND AN EXPLANATION AS TO WHY FIRM BYPASSING NORMAL COMMERCIAL CHANNELS.

C. CONTINENTAL ARMS CORPORATION OF NEW YORK HAS SUBMITTED APPLICATION (08474) FOR 8 SMITH AND WESSON 38 CAL REVOLVERS, ONE BROWNING 9 MM PISTOL, 2,000 12 GAUGE BUCK SHOTGUN SHELLS, 200 9 MM CARTRIDGES AND 12 HIGH STANDARD SHOTGUNS- MODEL 10 12 GAUGE, FOR CONSIGNMENT TO H DE SOLA Y HIJOS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF SECURITY AND PATROL OF THEIR PLANTATION. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT AS TO WHETHER THESE ARMS ARE APPROPRIATE TO FIRM'S NEEDS.

2. WE ARE AWARE OF TWO OTHER UNUSUAL INSTANCES OF ATTEMPTED ARMS ACQUISITIONS BY INDIVIDUAL SALVADORANS. IN OCTOBER, TWO FAS OFFICERS, MOONLIGHTING AS TACA PILOTS, WERE ARRESTED IN NEW ORLEANS FOR ATTEMPTING TO TRANSPORT TO EL SALVADOR SEVERAL PISTOLS AND ABOUT 5,000 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION ON THEIR PERSONS WITHOUT A MC LICENSE. THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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CUSTOMS SERVICE ADVISED US THAT THEY HAD BEEN OBSERVING THIS KIND OF ACTIVITY AMONG TACA PILOTS OVER AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME. DEPARTMENT HAS ALSO RECEIVED AN MC LICENSE (08372) APPLICATION FOR CONSIGNMENT OF MAC 10 9 MM SUB-MACHINE GUN TO ROBERTO JIMENEZ ORTEZ, ECONOMIC COUNSELOR OF THE SALVADORAN EMBASSY HERE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PERSONAL SECURITY.

3. WE ARE MYSTIFIED BY RECENT PATTERN OF DIRECT SMALL ARMS ACQUISITIONS BY INDIVIDUAL SALVADORANS. WE RECOGNIZE THAT QUANTITIES INVOLVED ARE NOT TERRIBLY SIGNIFICANT, BUT WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT UNORTHODOX PROCEDURES. WE NOTE

THAT POST REPORTED IN EARLY SEPTEMBER (REFTEL) THAT MOD

HAD BEEN REFUSING REQUESTS FOR PERMISSION TO IMPORT  
FIREARMS BY COMMERCIAL RETAILERS. ANY FURTHER LIGHT  
EMBASSY CAN SHED ON THIS SITUATION AND ANY RECOMMENDATIONS  
EMBASSY MAY HAVE FOR DEALING WITH DIRECT ACQUISITION OF  
SMALL QUANTITIES OF ARMS BY INDIVIDUALS WILL BE GREATLY  
APPRECIATED. KISSINGER

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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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